house, and four cells for prisoners ventilated by means of air chimneys. The hall over occupies the whole length of the building from east to west, and is 29 feet 6 inches wide in the clear of the walls, and 23 feet 6 inches high. The ceiling, which is slightly raised in the centre, is divided into compartments by longitudinal and transverse ribs, forming the braces and ties of the roof, which are moulded, and stained and varnished: the latter spring from carved stone corbels built into the walls: circular bosses, perforated for ventilation, are fixed at the intersection of the ribs throughout the centre of the ceiling. The hall is lighted by four windows on the north side, each window containing four lights with foliated heads, two windows of a somewhat plainer description on the south side, and a window of large dimensions at the west end. All the glazing is in lead work, of a geometrical design, in accordance with the style of the building. The principal elevation against Bridge-street is uniform, with an embattled parapet, and buttresses dividing the length into four bays. At the north-west angle an octagonal staircase and bell-turret, with an open lantern, rises to the height of 50 feet. The west front is more varied in design than the other, and presents a gable surmounted by an octagonal finial and copper gilt vane of antique fashion, which terminates the main roof over the hall. This end contains a large window with an embattled transom, and a large doorway underneath, with a four-centred arch. The stone employed in the basement has been obtained from Dean Forest: the walls above are built with bricks of bright colour, pointed with cement of a dark neutral blue; and the dressings, windows, and mouldings generally of the upper part are executed in stone obtained from the quarries of Mr. Samuson, at Coombe Down, near Bath. The work has been carried out by the contractor, Mr. E. M. White, from the designs and under the inspection of Mr. R. D. Gould, of Barnstaple, architect. The total cost of the work, including a chandelier, suspended in the hall, and other fittings, will be under 1,400*l.*, exclusive of the value of the materials arising from the old building.

Oldham.—It has at length been decided that the money subscribed at Oldham to erect a testimonial to the memory of the late Sir Robert Peel shall be devoted to the erection of public baths. It is supposed, however, that the sum subscribed, 1,111*l.* will scarcely be sufficient, and an appeal is to be made for additional subscriptions.

Bradford.—The *Leeds Intelligencer* gives the following as the general proportions of the Church of St. Andrew at Lister Hills, noticed in our last number. Nave, length, 76 feet; breadth, 23 feet: north aisle, length, 88 feet; breadth, 14½ feet: south aisle, length, 76 feet; breadth, 14½ feet: chancel, length, 36 feet; breadth, 19 feet: tower, east to west, 13 feet; north to south, 16 feet: vestry, east to west, 9 feet; north to south, 12 feet: porch, east to west, 8 feet; north to south, 9 feet: tower and spire, height, 128 feet: extreme length of church, 112 feet; breadth, 51 feet. Messrs. Mallinson and Healey were the architects.

Cork.—The foundation-stone of the Church of St. Vincent de Paul, to be erected at Ardfallen, Sundays Well, was laid on Friday in week before last. The site is said to be one of the most picturesque in the vicinity of the city. The structure will be in the Early Gothic style. The side front will look upon the river. The entrance will look to the west, and the chancel to the east. It is intended that the general appearance of the church shall resemble very considerably that of Salisbury Cathedral. The extreme length, including nave and aisle, will be 60 feet. A tower and spire will rise to the height of 200 feet. There will be several lancet windows. The chancel window will consist of five lancet lights, the centre of which will be about 30 feet high and about 3 feet in width. The height from the floor to the top of the clear story will be 50 feet, and the height to the top of the aisle about 22 feet. For some time it is not contemplated to proceed with the building of the tower and spire. The architect of the building is Mr. Benson, under whose superintendence also the works at the North Chapel are proceeding. Messrs. Murphy and Walsh are the contractors.

Miscellaneous.—The new west bridge of Galway, over the Corrib, has been keyed. Mr. Nugent, the contractor, and Mr. S. U. Roberts, the district engineer, and others, were present.——It is proposed to erect a corn exchange at Kilmarnock. A public hall is also considered a desideratum.——Active steps are being taken towards the erection of a new public hall at Banbury.——Gas works are in progress of erection at Corsham, by Mr. Cole, builder.——Further powers are to be applied for by the Swansea Water Works Company next session of Parliament.——St. Alban's Church has been extensively repaired, and was to be re-opened on Monday last.——The tower of All Saints Church, Dorchester, will shortly have reached its intended height.

BUILDING IN SCOTLAND.

THE great majority of houses in Scotland are built on the system of "flats," or, as we should term them, "chambers." In Glasgow the houses are usually built in this way, in four stories and basement. For instance, in a locality where the middle classes live, the usual frontage is 60 feet, depth 40 feet, with a small yard, or, as they call it, "green," and wash-house, both of which are common to the inhabitants of all the floors. The walls are two feet thick all the height: the front is of polished or rubbed sandstone, the rest of the outer wall of rubble work: the former costs about 17*l.* per rood of 36 cubic yards: the latter costs 7*l.* per rood: the windows are dressed much the same as ours are. The stone is brought from a quarry about 4 miles distant. The partition walls are all of brick. Most of their slates are brought from the Highlands, are only 10 inches by 8 inches, and cost about as much as the Welch slates do here. A good deal of Welch slate is also used there. The foundations are formed of blocks of stone 3 feet long, laid cross ways, and on this another, narrower, like our brick footings; concrete not being used except on bad ground.

Before the sleepers are laid, to stop all damp from rising, about 2 inches in depth of asphalte are spread over the ground. We ought to do the same here.

It is important to prevent all sound from floor to floor, they being occupied by different families: for this purpose the joists are boarded from one to the other, about 6 inches from the top side: a layer of mortar 1 inch in thickness is then spread over the boards: over the mortar dry smith's ashes are spread to within half an inch of the top of the joists. The joists, from basement to attic, are 12 inches by 2½ inches.

Carpenters in Glasgow, first-rate hands they are too (pray, read this, you men who turned out at Mr. Myers' the other day for so small a matter), receive 20*s.* weekly wages, masons 22*s.* Their hours are from six to six, having an hour at nine to breakfast, and an hour at two o'clock for dinner. Living is as dear there as here. A builder there opened his eyes a little widely when I told him that our carpenters have 30*s.*, and masons the same or more.

The basement of the house is used as coal cellars.

The frontage being 60 feet, the entrance is by one door in the centre, leading to the common staircase, which is always stone, and lighted from the roof. Each floor is usually divided into two tenements, each tenement having a private entrance into a lobby or passage from the landing.

This plan of occupying houses possesses many advantages over our own, not the least of which is the facility it gives to people of moderate means to live in a good neighbourhood at a low rent.

One great want is perceptible in Glasgow, and most northern towns,—a want of taste in the outward adornment of the houses: there are very few nice balconies with flowers, plate-glass windows, or pretty verandahs: the house is built, and so it stands for ages without one brush of paint or colour of any kind (but for the sashes and frames), so that in time the houses get a sombre appearance: this is felt less in Edinburgh where there are no manufactories.

Edinburgh is a magnificent city, and when I thought how much of its grandeur is owing entirely to situation, I sighed when I thought also of Trafalgar-square and the National Gallery.

Within the last few years the archæologists have discovered that a small building in Edinburgh Castle which had been used as a powder magazine, was really a chapel, formerly known as St. Margaret's Chapel. They have succeeded in restoring it to its former use as a chapel. It is a diminutive place—about 14 feet by 9 feet, but interesting from its age—nearly 800 years.

Any one on the castle, looking at the numerous palatial buildings devoted to education, and called there "hospitals," will cease to wonder that the Scotch are usually so well educated.

I counted *ten stories* in one dwelling-house in the old town: some have, I believe, as many as twelve or fourteen stories. There does not seem to be much building going on in Edinburgh; but Glasgow and Belfast both seem rapidly increasing. By the by, I counted nine large iron steamers building on the banks of the Clyde the other day.

What shall I say of Dublin? It is a noble city, in a fine situation, with many really good buildings, with a park that surpasses Hyde-park in every respect; but there seems something wanting—a want of life—a mixture of grandeur and decay. Will Irishmen forgive me for saying that it reminded me of a shabby-genteel man, too poor to keep up appearances properly, and yet too proud to work.

J. P. W.

THE QUESTION OF A GOTHIC DOME, AND HOW IT WAS TREATED.

I AM ready to admit that the subject of inquiry started by your correspondent "K." is in itself somewhat interesting; but his mode of treatment appears to be open to certain comments, and his assertions to not a little strictures. It is a matter of astonishment to the dispassionate critic, to observe with what evident pleasure personal imputations are now so often introduced in our discussions. Mr. K., modern Greek as he doubtless delights to style himself, cannot propose a Gothic dome as a subject for inquiry without occupying at least half his article by an attack on professional Gothicists, and archæological and romantic amateurs. I make bold to say, that his remarks on this head betray a want of information as to that mediæval spirit he so much detests.

Why any professional man should look so jealously on the amateur as your correspondent does, it is very hard to understand. I should have thought that architects experienced at least a feeling of kindness—I will not say gratitude—towards those who devote so much time in bringing architecture favourably before the public eye,—who, deriving no professional profit from their knowledge, do one it as to lead to increased honour and advantage to the architects—the K.'s—so they be only able to answer increased public expectations. It is surprising that Mr. K. should assert that the mediæval remains have no such claim on the sympathies of the refined poet or profound scholar as have the classic, and that from classic remains all that is excellent in modern taste and learning first arose. Quite the reverse. The greatest works of the modern world originated in a feeling directly opposed to the classic. Certainly Gothic architecture did not arise from classic remains; neither did modern music, modern painting, nor modern literature, including the Spanish, English, and German dramas. The whole range of beautiful arts which arose from the operation of Christianity on a mind essentially different in its characteristics to that of Greece, did not spring from classic remains. Of course, the effect of Christianity upon European arts and civilization, and the whole age of chivalry adorned with the works of a